

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 /138 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WIWRIGHT

APPROVED BY NEA/P:WIWRIGHT

S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USMISSION NATO

USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY SANAA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 11,
1974:

QUOTE: MR. VEST: THE SECRETARY IS HAVING BREAKFAST
TOMORROW MORNING, AT 8 O'CLOCK, WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI,
HERE IN THE BUILDING.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE SYRIANS?

A. THE SYRIANS? I DO NOT HAVE AN EXACT TIME FOR THEM. IT
WILL BE, I BELIEVE, FRIDAY -- OR MAYBE SATURDAY. I HAVE
NOTHING MORE PRECISE ON THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME ON THE
SYRIANS.

Q. THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT HE'S GOING TO MEET WITH THE
SYRIANS, IS THERE?

A. NO DOUBT, NO.

Q. DO THE SYRIANS WANT TO COME HERE WITHOUT US SEEING THEM?

A. I HAVE NO INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT THE SYRIAN PLANNING
IS AT ALL. I JUST DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFIC TIMING AS TO
WHEN THEY'RE GOING TO SEE THE SECRETARY.

Q. HAS MR. ATHERTON SEEN THE SYRIANS TODAY OR WILL HE BE
SEEING THE SYRIANS TODAY?

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A. HE MET THEM AT THE AIRPORT, BUT I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY
PLANS FOR HIM TO SEE THEM TODAY BEFORE THEY SEE THE
SECRETARY.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN A REQUEST FROM THIS COUNTRY OR THE
SYRIANS TO DELAY THE FIRST MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY?

A. NO.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHEN THE SYRIAN DELEGATION IS TO RETURN TO SYRIA? DOES IT STAY HERE OVER THE WEEKEND, INTO NEXT WEEK, OR WHAT?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. DID MR. SISCO OR MR. ATHERTON SEE THE SYRIAN DELEGATION THIS MORNING?

A. NO. THEY WERE IN THE WHITE HOUSE THIS MORNING.

Q. IS THERE ANY REACTION BY THE SECRETARY TO THE MASSACRE OF THE JEWISH CIVILIANS ACROSS THE BORDER FROM LEBANON BY THE ARAB TERRORISTS?

A. SPEAKING FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WE DO CONDEMN BRUTAL AND SENSELESS SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS, PARTICULARLY THE MURDER OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AS WE DEPLORE SUCH TERRORISM IN ANY AREA.

IN THIS INSTANCE, IT IS PARTICULARLY REGRETTABLE AT A TIME WHEN THE PROCESSES OF PEACE ARE ALREADY IN MOTION.

I MIGHT ADD THAT THIS ATTACK UNDERLINES EVEN MORE THE URGENT NEED FOR THE SECRETARY'S CONTINUED EFFORTS TO ASSIST IN BRINGING PEACE TO THIS REGION.

Q. CAN WE ASSUME THAT THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ISRAEL ARE NOT SLOWING DOWN HIS EFFORTS, OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO JUST COMMENT ON WHAT THE EFFECT OF THE POLITICAL CRISIS WILL HAVE ON HIS TRAVEL PLANS?

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A. IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE EVENS IN THE AREA ARE NOT SLOWING DOWN HIS SENSE OF URGENCY AND HIS EFFORTS TO MAKE PROGRESS ON DISENGAGEMENT.

AS ALWAYS, HE HAS HAD TO HAVE MEETINGS WITH THE TWO SIDES BEFORE EXACT FURTHER PLANS CAN BE MADE FOR A FURTHER TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT HE IS STILL INTENT UPON PURSUING THIS ACTIVITY.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY THIS ACTIVITY YOU MEAN THE TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, OR JUST THE GENERAL ACTIVITY?

A. THE GENERAL ACTIVITY INVOLVES, AT SOME STAGE, A TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, AS WELL. AND ON PAST PLANNING, OR THINKING, THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN THINKING IN TERMS OF A

FURTHER TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST SOMEWHERE IN THE LAST TEN DAYS OF THIS MONTH.

Q. COULD YOU SAY WHETHER IT WOULD BE WRONG TO CONCLUDE THAT THE DEVELOPMENTS OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY MAY POSTPONE THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. WELL, I WOULDN'T WANT TO MAKE ANY JUDGMENT OF ANY KIND AT THIS STAGE.

Q. YOU ARE SAYING IT WOULD NOT BE WRONG TO CONCLUDE THAT DEVELOPMENTS OF TODAY AND YESTERDAY MAY POSTPONE THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

A. NO, I SAID THE OPPOSITE. I SAID I WOULD NOT WANT TO AGREE TO ANY SUCH CONCLUSION.

Q. WOULD IT BE INACCURATE TO CONCLUDE THAT POSSIBLY THE SYRIANS HAVE BEEN GIVEN OUT SOME OUTLINE OF A PLAN THAT WAS PRESENTED BY DEFENSE MINISTER DAYAN A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, SO THAT THEY HAVE A CHANCE TO STUDY THAT BEFORE SEEING HE SECRETARY?

A. I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THIS.

Q. THE FACT THAT THE SECRETARY IS SEEING MR. FAHMI
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TOMORROW FOR BREAKFAST AND HAS NOT YET SEEN THE SYRIAN DELEGATION DOES THIS MEAN THAT THERE IS SOMETHING MORE URGENT ON THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI SECTOR, THAN THERE IS ON THE ISRAELI-SYRIAN SECTOR?

A. I WOULD NOT WANT TO LEAD YOU TO THINK THAT AT ALL.
END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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